

Senate, No. 2155

[Senate, September 28, 2009 – New Draft of Senate, No.751 reported from the committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A STUDY OF SOBER HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the bureau
2 of substance abuse services, in consultation with the department of public health, shall conduct a
3 study of alcohol and substance free housing, known as “sober homes”, to examine how best to
4 provide oversight by exploring the feasibility of licensing, regulating, registering, or certifying
5 sober homes and/or operators. Said study shall also document the number of sober homes
6 operating in the state, the standards and requirements necessary to protect the health and safety
7 of the home’s residents, and any problems created by the operation of sober homes, including
8 impacts on neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

9 The bureau shall report to the general court the results of its study and its recommendations, if
10 any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by
11 filing the same with the clerk of the senate, the joint committee on mental health and substance
12 abuse and the senate and house committees on ways and means no later than December 31, 2010.